

Carol Gardner  
1205 S. Beach Street, Apt. 2012  
Daytona Beach, FL 32114

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June 13, 1999

Lyle D. Jaffe  
Dockets Management Branch  
Food & Drug Administration  
Dept. of Health & Human Services  
12420 Parklawn Drive, Room 1-23  
Rockville, MD 20857

Re: Docket 398P-0203/CP

Dear Mr. Jaffe:

I am writing regarding the petition filed under Docket #98-0203/CP which would ban the practice of forced molting in chicken farms. It has been clearly documented by years of research that when hens are starved during forced molting, their immune systems are damaged and they and their eggs become infected with Salmonella Enteritidis. Salmonella poisoning is a public health issue. I know the U.S. government is concerned about reducing the number of cases of food poisoning we have in this country. Banning the practice of forced molting would help reduce the spread of Salmonella infection.

A lot of research has been done which supports this. In an article entitled "Salmonella Enteritidis infections in the United States," (December 15, 1998, Journal of the American Veterinary Medical Association), it is noted that Salmonella is a "major health problem," and that "eggs are the predominant source of Salmonella Enteritidis infections in humans." The report noted that Salmonellosis can be traced back to the farm of origin and infected hens have been identified as the source of many outbreaks. The report concluded that while consumers can reduce their risk of Salmonella infection by avoiding eating undercooked or

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raw eggs, "control of Salmonella will require preventing infections in egg-laying and broiler chickens." By banning the practice of forced molting, you would greatly reduce Salmonella infection of hens and eggs, and thereby protect public health.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Carol Gardner". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the word "Sincerely,".

Carol Gardner

Ms. Carol Gardner  
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Daytona Beach, FL 32114-6306



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